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**From:** Sarah Jacobson

**Sent:** Mon 8/17/2015 5:38:27 PM

**Subject:** FW: Animas River Recovery and Presidential Candidate Coming to Durango

FYI - presidential candidate coming tomorrow.

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**From:** Durango Business Improvement District [timw@downtowndurango.org]

**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2015 10:56 AM

**To:** Sarah Jacobson

**Subject:** Animas River Recovery and Presidential Candidate Coming to Durango

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BID Special Update  
Brought to you by  
Durango Business Improvement District

August 17, 2015  
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**BID Constituents:**

We have three things for you to know this Monday morning, two items related to the Animas River recovery and one about a presidential candidate coming to town

to the our Facebook page, follow us on Twitter and Instagram, and check out our YouTube Channel.

For current information on BID's activities, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and Instagram, and subscribe to our YouTube Channel.

Facebook: [facebook.com/DurangoBID](https://www.facebook.com/DurangoBID)

La Plata County, with the assistance of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DoLA), and with the cooperation of local, state and federal agencies, will open a Recovery Center in Durango on Tuesday, August 18 and Wednesday, August 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the east end of the La Plata County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, Main Avenue, Durango Colorado.

Twitter: @DurangoBID

Instagram: DurangoBID

You Tube Channel

Staff from local, state and federal agencies noted below will be available to answer

the Community Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), originally established in 2008 to assist those workers impacted by the Main Ave. fire.

The fund will now be made available to those employees facing economic hardship directly related to the Animas River contamination and closure. Currently \$28,000 is available for distribution.

"But that \$28,000 won't go very far," said Tim Walsworth, BID executive director. "Preliminary estimates from the rafting companies indicate that several hundred of their employees have lost their jobs or had hours cut virtually with no warning."

The relief fund is housed with the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado, a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity designed to serve the local community through various endowment funds and grants. Working with the Community Foundation preserves the integrity of the process of fund distribution and provides contributors with a tax deduction.

Community donations to the CERF are welcomed and encouraged. Checks should be made payable to "Community Foundation-Community Emergency Relief Fund" and mailed to the Foundation at P.O. Box 1673, Durango, Colo. 81302. Deposits may also be made directly at the Bank of the San Juans, and credit card donations made via the Community Foundation web site, [www.swcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.swcommunityfoundation.org).

To determine distribution of funds, the BID and the Community Foundation have convened a grant committee, which includes representatives from United Way, City of Durango, La Plata County Economic Development Alliance, DATO, La Plata Electric Association and the river rafting industry.

Those individuals impacted by the river contamination/closure who need assistance are asked to fill out a simple, one-page application, which will be available online by Wednesday, Aug. 19, at the Community Foundation and the BID web sites ([www.swcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.swcommunityfoundation.org) and [www.downtowndurango.org](http://www.downtowndurango.org)), or at the BID office, 850 ½ Main Ave. Suite 2. Completed applications should be submitted to the BID.

BID staff will verify employment of applicants at the various river rafting companies and pass the application on to the committee for needs evaluations. Impacted employees will be eligible for gift cards to help cover immediate necessities.

This protocol is designed to assist with short term needs. The BID recognizes that as the days and weeks pass, larger issues will become evident. These will be addressed at that time. The emergency relief fund is not, however, designed to be a long-term social services agency. The Colorado Workforce Center, La Plata County and the Community Foundation can assist or direct those impacted by the river contamination to additional resources.

"This is what our community does - we come together to support our own in times of crisis," said Walsworth. "This is why we live in Durango."

For further information, contact the Business Improvement District at 970.375.5067, or the Community Foundation at 970.375.5807.

## **Presidential Candidate to Visit Durango TOMORROW**

Republican Presidential candidate and neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson will be in Durango on Tuesday afternoon, August 18, and is scheduled to speak at 2 p.m. in Rotary Park (behind the VFW).

The public is invited.

Dr. Carson, originally from Detroit, is currently running 2nd in the Fox post-debate polls.

### Forward email

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